

15 January, 1995

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter - glad to know you are well and still functioning.

I was visited by David Whiffen ( he was introduced to me by Dave Turner) in my room at Imperial College, and had my arm twisted to follow Rex Richards as chairman of the NMRDG. This must have been in the first half of 1965, because I left Imperial that summer for the chair at Surrey (1/9/65), and it might even have been earlier when the NMRDG was first properly constituted with Rex Richards as chairman, and David Whiffen was I believe bothered about Rex's succession because he knew he would not be able to follow on. Dave Turner might have done so but again he was beginning to be much more strongly interested in photo-electron spectroscopy and saw himself leaving NMR. I have a diary entry for an NMRDG meeting on 16 Dec. 1966 but it doesn't say where! If my memory is correct, I think this was a meeting at Teddington (NPL) at the end of which Rex announced that I was to follow him as chairman for the next three years.

Certainly, the first meeting which I chaired was held at Swansea on 22 March 1967. Then at Royal Holloway, Christmas, 1967 (according to an entry under Chemistry in the Surrey V's Report for that year, but curiously I can't find my own personal diary entry, though I do recollect the meeting in the Theatre at RH. There is however a cryptic note of 28 September 1967, "NMRDG ?" which could mean that that was the date or that it was a provisional one, not held that day. Certainly the next meeting was at the U. of Strathclyde, Easter 1968 and after that at ERDE Waltham Abbey, December 1968 (I recollect that meeting particularly because I was asked by the authorities to announce at the beginning of the meeting ' that smoking was strictly prohibited outside, but not inside the buildings' - the grounds seemed to be full of tethered rockets and every now and then they let one off. Then there was a meeting at U of Bristol in April 1969 after which I made the 'mistake' of offering Jim Feeney and friends a lift back to the station only to be held up in a traffic jam so long that they missed their train. Finally there was the International Symposium at Birmingham, 15-18 July, 1969. I have the Abstracts and a list of participants, and a note that, at the end, I formally handed over to Les Sutcliffe. During my time, Eric Mooney acted as



Secretary and Ernie Cummins as Treasurer. Both continued for quite a while, but I have no details, though I would expect following chairmen to be able to help.

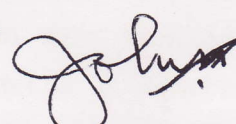
I also have records of the International Symposium at St Andrews 6 - 11 July 1975, chaired by Ed Randall who handed over to Jim Feeney. That was the Third such meeting. The Second International Meeting was at U of Surrey, 3 - 7 July 1972 and was chaired by Les Sutcliffe, who handed over then to Ed Randall. The Fourth International Meeting was at U of York, July, 1978 but I expect from your letter that you have all the details then and subsequently.

To the very best of my recollection, Eric Mooney never was chairman and did not want to be - I knew him rather well for some time. Thus he examined Pam Lewis's Phd thesis for me in the Autumn of 1968. When he left Birmingham, he was living at Walnut House, Cornerways, Speen, Aylesbury.

I hope the above may be of some help to <sup>you,</sup> Robin. If you wished to borrow any of the reference material I quote, please let me know.

With very best wishes for 1995,

Yours sincerely,

  
John Elvidge.

P.S. Dave Turner FRS has recently retired from a Chair at Oxford. His address is 14 Jack Straw's Lane, Headington, Oxford.